

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An information distribution device, comprising:
  - a first storage portion for storing terminal information including an address of each terminal device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of terminal devices;
  - a first receiving portion for receiving, from a terminal device belonging to said group, a distribution request including access information and distribution destination information, said access information being required for accessing distribution information for distribution to all, some or one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said distribution destination information specifying a distribution destination terminal device belonging to said group;
  - a second receiving portion for accessing said distribution information based on said access information included in a distribution request received by said first receiving portion, and for receiving the distribution information;
  - a second storage portion for storing said distribution information received by said second receiving portion; and
  - a first transmitting portion for specifying an address of a distribution destination terminal device based on said distribution destination information included in a distribution request received by said first receiving

portion, and said terminal information stored in said first storage portion, and for distributing to said specified destination terminal device said distribution information stored in said second storage portion.

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2. The information distribution device according to claim 1, further comprising a third receiving portion for receiving a bill of charges from a device, said device billing for said distribution information charges when said distribution information is chargeable.

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3. The information distribution device according to claim 2, further comprising a second transmitting portion for transmitting said bill of charges received by said third receiving portion either to a terminal device which transmitted said distribution request or to a telecommunications carrier to which this terminal device subscribes.

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4. The information distribution device according to claim 1, further comprising a deleting portion for deleting said distribution information stored in said second storage portion after the distribution of said distribution information by said first transmitting portion.

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5. The information distribution device according to claim 1, further comprising a third transmitting portion for

transmitting notification, to the terminal device which transmitted said distribution request, of the fact that distribution has been completed, after the distribution of said distribution information by said first transmitting portion.

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6. The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said distribution request further includes additional information added to said distribution 10 information, and said first transmitting portion distributes said additional information in addition to said distribution information.

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7. The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said distribution request further includes a distribution time for specifying a time for distributing said distribution information, and said first transmitting portion distributes said distribution information at said distribution time.

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8. The information distribution device according to claim 1,  
wherein said terminal device information stored in said first storage portion includes information for 25 representing an information format displayable on a display portion of the terminal device, and

wherein said information distribution device further comprises a conversion/filtering portion for converting or filtering said distribution information to a format capable of being displayed on a display portion of said terminal device, based on said information for representing said displayable information format.

5           9. The information distribution device according to claim  
1, wherein said first receiving portion receives said  
10          distribution request from said terminal device via another  
server device.

10          10. The information distribution device according to claim  
1, wherein said distribution information is either a  
15          program including a game program, said program and a  
license for said program, map information, or product  
information.

11. A terminal device, comprising:  
20          a registration portion for registering, via a  
telecommunications network, terminal information including  
an address of each terminal device belonging to a group  
constituted by a plurality of terminal devices, in an  
information distribution device connected to the  
25          telecommunications network; and  
              a transmitting portion for transmitting, to said  
information distribution device, a distribution request

including access information and distribution destination information, said access information being required for accessing distribution information for distribution to all, some or one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said distribution destination information specifying a distribution destination terminal device belonging to said group.

12. The terminal device according to claim 11, wherein  
10 said distribution request further includes additional information added to said distribution information.

13. The terminal device according to claim 11, wherein  
15 said distribution request further includes a distribution time for specifying a time for distributing said distribution information.

14. The terminal device according to claim 11, wherein  
20 said distribution information is either a program including a game program, said program and a license for said program, map information, or product information.

15. An information distribution system having a plurality of terminal devices and an information distribution device,  
25 wherein said terminal device comprises:

a registration portion for registering, in said information distribution device, terminal information

including an address of each terminal device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of terminal devices; and  
5 a transmitting portion for transmitting, to said information distribution device, a distribution request including access information and distribution destination information, said access information being required for accessing distribution information for distribution to all, some or one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said distribution destination information specifying a distribution destination terminal device belonging to  
10 said group,

and wherein said information distribution device comprises:

15 a first storage portion for storing terminal information registered by said registration portion of said terminal device,

a first receiving portion for receiving said distribution request transmitted by said transmitting portion;

20 a second receiving portion for accessing said distribution information based on said access information included in a distribution request received by said first receiving portion, and for receiving said distribution information; and

25 a distributing portion for specifying an address of a distribution destination terminal device based on said distribution destination information included in a

distribution request received by said first receiving portion, and terminal information stored in said first storage portion, and for distributing, to said specified destination terminal device, distribution information received by said second receiving portion.

16. An information distribution method, performed by a server device which stores terminal information including an address of each terminal device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of terminal devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a terminal device belonging to said group, a distribution request including access information and distribution destination information, said access information being required for accessing distribution information for distribution to all, some or one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said distribution destination information specifying a distribution destination terminal device belonging to said group;

accessing said distribution information based on said access information included in said received distribution request, and receiving said distribution information; and

specifying an address of a distribution destination terminal device based on said distribution destination information included in said received distribution request, and said stored terminal information, and distributing said

received distribution information to said destination terminal device.

17. An information distribution method, performed by a  
5 terminal device connected to a telecommunications network,  
comprising the steps of:

registering, via said telecommunications network,  
terminal information including an address of each terminal  
device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of  
10 terminal devices, in an information distribution device  
connected to this telecommunications network; and

transmitting, to said information distribution device,  
a distribution request including access information and  
distribution destination information, said access  
15 information being required for accessing distribution  
information for distribution to all, some or one of said  
terminal devices belonging to said group, said distribution  
destination information specifying a distribution  
destination terminal device belonging to said group.

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18. An information distribution method for an information  
distribution system having a plurality of terminal devices  
and an information distribution device, comprising steps  
of:

25 said terminal device registering, in said information  
distribution device, terminal information including an

address of each terminal device belonging to a group  
constituted by a plurality of terminal devices;

5        said terminal device transmitting, to said information  
distribution device, a distribution request including  
access information and distribution destination information,  
said access information being required for accessing  
distribution information for distribution to all, some or  
one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said  
distribution destination information specifying a  
distribution destination terminal device belonging to said  
group,

10      said information distribution device storing said  
terminal information registered by said terminal device;

15      said information distribution device receiving said  
distribution request transmitted from said terminal device;

      said information distribution device accessing said  
distribution information based on said access information  
included in said received distribution request, and  
receiving said distribution information; and

20      said information distribution device specifying an  
address of a distribution destination terminal device based  
on said distribution destination information included in  
said received distribution request, and said terminal  
information, and distributing said received distribution  
information to said specified destination terminal device.  
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19. An information distribution program product,  
comprising:

a receiving process for receiving, from a terminal  
device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of  
5 terminal devices, a distribution request including access  
information and distribution destination information, said  
access information being required for accessing  
distribution information for distribution to all, some or  
one of said terminal devices belonging to said group, said  
10 distribution destination information specifying a  
distribution destination terminal device belonging to said  
group;

a accessing process for accessing said distribution  
information based on said access information included in  
15 said received distribution request, to receive the  
distribution information; and

a specifying process for specifying an address of a  
distribution destination terminal device based on said  
distribution destination information included in said  
20 received distribution request, and terminal information  
including an address of each terminal device belonging to  
said group, to distribute said received distribution  
information to said destination terminal device.

25 20. An information distribution program product,  
comprising:

a registering process for registering, via a  
telecommunications network, terminal information including  
an address of each terminal device belonging to a group  
constituted by a plurality of terminal devices, in an  
information distribution device connected to the  
telecommunications network; and

a transmitting process for transmitting, to said  
information distribution device, a distribution request  
including access information and distribution destination  
information, said access information being required for  
accessing distribution information for distribution to all,  
some or one of said terminal devices belonging to said  
group, said distribution destination information specifying  
a distribution destination terminal device belonging to  
said group.